

REMARKS

The Official Action of October 6, 2008, has been carefully reviewed. The claims are all allowed, prosecution on the merits has been closed, and only a minor formal matter has been raised in the Office Action.

Acknowledgment by the PTO of the receipt of applicants' papers filed under Section 119 is noted.

Claims 19-34, all the claims in the application, have been allowed. Applicants understand that these claims meet all the requirements for patentability including those of Sections 102, 103 and 112, and applicants proceeding in reliance thereof.

The only issue raised in the Office Action is a minor objection to the abstract. Applicants wonder why this was not resolved by a telephone call and an Examiner's Amendment. Nevertheless, an appropriate amendment has been made above in the Abstract. In addition, a clean copy (without showing the amendment) of the amended Abstract is attached.

For the record, applicants respectfully note that an Abstract is not a claim, and therefore no words in an Abstract

can constitute "legal phraseology" as that term is applied to a claim. In other words, the word "means" when it appears in a claim is subject to a certain interpretation under 35 USC §112, but when it appears elsewhere it is not subject to such interpretation.

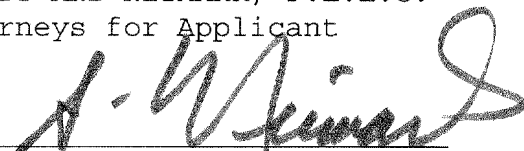
The prior art documents of record and not relied upon by the PTO have been noted, along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently material to warrant their application against any of applicants' claims.

Applicants believe that all issues raised in the Official Action had been addressed above. Early formal allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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